

QA-551
Franklin W. Coleman House
Chester vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed 1910
Privately owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Franklin W. Coleman House stands on the west side of Dominion Road south of the village of Chester on Kent Island, Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The property includes a 1910 I-house, a 1910 dairy, a 1940s garage, and a 1940s shed. All buildings are in good condition. The Coleman House faces the James E. Kirwan House and Store (QA-550) directly across Dominion Road and was part of Kirwan's family complex. Flat, open agricultural land surrounds the Coleman House.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Franklin W. Coleman House was part of Senator James E. Kirwan's family complex. (See James E. Kirwan House and Store, QA-550.) The house was constructed for Sophia Lavinia Kirwan Coleman and Franklin Whitefield Coleman, daughter and son-in-law of James E. Kirwan. The Coleman House was constructed on a 1-acre lot facing the James E. Kirwan House and Store across Dominion Road. Because of this arrangement, the Coleman and Kirwan Houses read as a complex. The Coleman House has been in the same family since its construction.

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-551

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Franklin W. Coleman House stands on the west side of Dominion Road south of the village of Chester on Kent Island, Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The property includes a 1910 I-house, a 1910 dairy, a 1940s garage, and a 1940s shed. The Coleman House faces the James E. Kirwan House and Store (QA-550) directly across Dominion Road and was part of Kirwan's family complex. The house was constructed for Sophia Lavinia Kirwan Coleman and Franklin Whitefield Coleman, daughter and son-in-law of James E. Kirwan. Flat, open, agricultural land surrounds the Coleman House.

The Franklin W. Coleman House, constructed in 1910, is a 2 1/2-story, 5-bay, wood frame I-house with a cross-gable roof and a rear ell. The house has a brick pier foundation, asbestos shingle over wood drop siding, and a standing-seam metal over wood shake roof with a boxed cornice and returns. Corbelled interior brick chimneys stand in the gable ends of the main block and ell. The main entry is in the center bay of the front (east) elevation and consists of a glazed door with 3-light sidelights and a 4-light transom of colored glass. Additional entrances include a glazed door on the south elevation of the main block, a paneled door on the south elevation of the ell, and a glazed door on the north elevation of the ell addition. The 2/2 wood windows have plain surrounds and louvered shutters. In the center of the cross gable and on either side of the chimneys in the three gable ends are small, round-arch 2/2 wood windows. A 1-story hipped-roof porch wraps the east and south elevations. The porch has a concrete-block pier foundation, a jigsaw balustrade, chamfered posts with jigsaw brackets, and a standing-seam metal roof with a center cross gable. A 1-story, hipped-roof enclosed porch extends from the north elevation of the ell. The enclosed porch has asbestos shingle siding and aluminum windows.

The first floor interior of the Coleman House has a center passage flanked by parlors. The ell originally contained the kitchen but has been converted to a dining room. The enclosed porch houses a small kitchen and bathroom. The first floor finishes consist of wood floors now covered in carpet, simple baseboards, plaster walls and ceilings, and beaded door and window surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks.¹ The fireplaces were originally fitted for stoves and have mass-produced mantels, a different one at every fireplace. The main stair is double run with jigsaw step brackets and a turned newel and balusters. A winder is located in the southwest corner of the ell. The second floor has three rooms. Part of the room in the ell has been partitioned for a bathroom. The attic has two finished rooms in the main block and an unfinished space over the ell.

The Coleman House has three remaining outbuildings. The 1910 dairy stands immediately west of the ell. It has a brick foundation, drop siding with cornerboards, and a standing-seam metal gable roof with a boxed cornice. The dairy has a beadboard door on the south elevation and louvered openings on the north, east, and west. The dairy was converted to house a well in 1929.

Southeast of the house and dairy is a 1940s garage. The garage has a concrete-block pier foundation, wood weatherboard, and a standing-seam metal gable roof with open eaves. The garage has beadboard sliding doors on the east elevation and a small shed on the west.

¹ Bertha Coleman Abbott, who grew up in the house, stated that the wood floors originally had area rugs tacked over them, and the floors around the perimeters of the rooms were painted dark brown. The house was originally wallpapered, and the current owner has saved wallpaper samples.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

East of the house, at the rear of the lot, is a 1940s shed. The shed has a concrete-block pier foundation, board-and-batten siding, and a corrugated metal shed roof. The shed has six storage spaces arranged in a line.² Each has a board-and-batten door. There are several 6-light, fixed-sash, wood windows.

The Coleman House and its outbuildings are in good condition. Alterations to the house, mostly dating to the 1940s, include addition of asbestos shingle siding and standing-seam metal roofing, enclosure of the porch for a kitchen and bathroom, and addition of a bathroom on the second floor.

² According to Bertha Coleman Abbott, the shed was used for general storage.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-551

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1910 (construction) **Architect/Builder** Franklin W. Coleman

Construction dates 1910

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Franklin W. Coleman House was part of Senator James E. Kirwan's family complex. (See James E. Kirwan House and Store, QA-550.) The house was constructed for Sophia Lavinia Kirwan Coleman and Franklin Whitefield Coleman, daughter and son-in-law of James E. Kirwan. The Coleman House was constructed on a 1-acre lot facing the James E. Kirwan House and Store across Dominion Road. Because of this arrangement, the Coleman and Kirwan Houses read as a complex. The Coleman House has been in the same family since its construction in 1910.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Franklin W. Coleman House was part of James E. Kirwan's family complex. Franklin Whitefield Coleman married Sophia Lavinia Kirwan, daughter of Senator James E. Kirwin, in 1898. According to census records, Coleman worked as a storekeeper in Kirwan's store. The couple had three daughters: Mary, Bertha, and Reba. The Colemans initially lived in a small house at a rear of the current lot; that house was moved to Newtown Road when the present house was constructed in 1910. The Coleman House stands close to Dominion Road directly across from the James E. Kirwan House and Store. Because of this arrangement, the Coleman and Kirwan Houses read as a complex.

Because the Coleman family owned an income-producing farm on Kent Point, the Coleman House lot consisted of only one acre. According to daughter Bertha Coleman Abbott, original outbuildings for the Coleman House included a dairy, coal house, chicken house, and privy.³ The family also had unlimited use of the outbuildings at the Kirwan House, including the carriage house and barn. A vegetable garden was planted south of the Coleman House, and a fenced chicken yard occupied the back yard. A hand-operated pump was located off the south end of the porch. Dominion Road at that time was one lane and lined with trees as it passed through the complex.

In 1929, the Colemans electrified and plumbed the house and converted the dairy to a pump house. The current garage and shed were constructed in the 1940s. In the 1950s, the porch north of the ell was enclosed for a new kitchen and bathroom, and the house was covered in asbestos shingles.

Youngest daughter Reba Coleman returned home to care for her parents until their deaths in the 1950s. Reba Coleman remained at the Coleman House until the 1990s. Current owners Dorothy and Carl Wagner, daughter and son-in-law of Bertha Coleman Abbott, acquired the property in 1996.

³ Only the dairy remains standing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-551

Conversation among Julie Darsie, Bertha Coleman Abbott, Dorothy Abbott Wagner, and Carl Wagner, May 20, 2005.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.92 acres
Acreage of historical setting 1.1 acres
Quadrangle name Kent Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Coleman House is identical to that of Parcel 205 on Queen Anne's County Tax Map 57. This is the lot conveyed from James E. Kirwan to Franklin Whitefield Coleman. The original acreage has been reduced by 0.18 acres due to widening of Dominion Road.

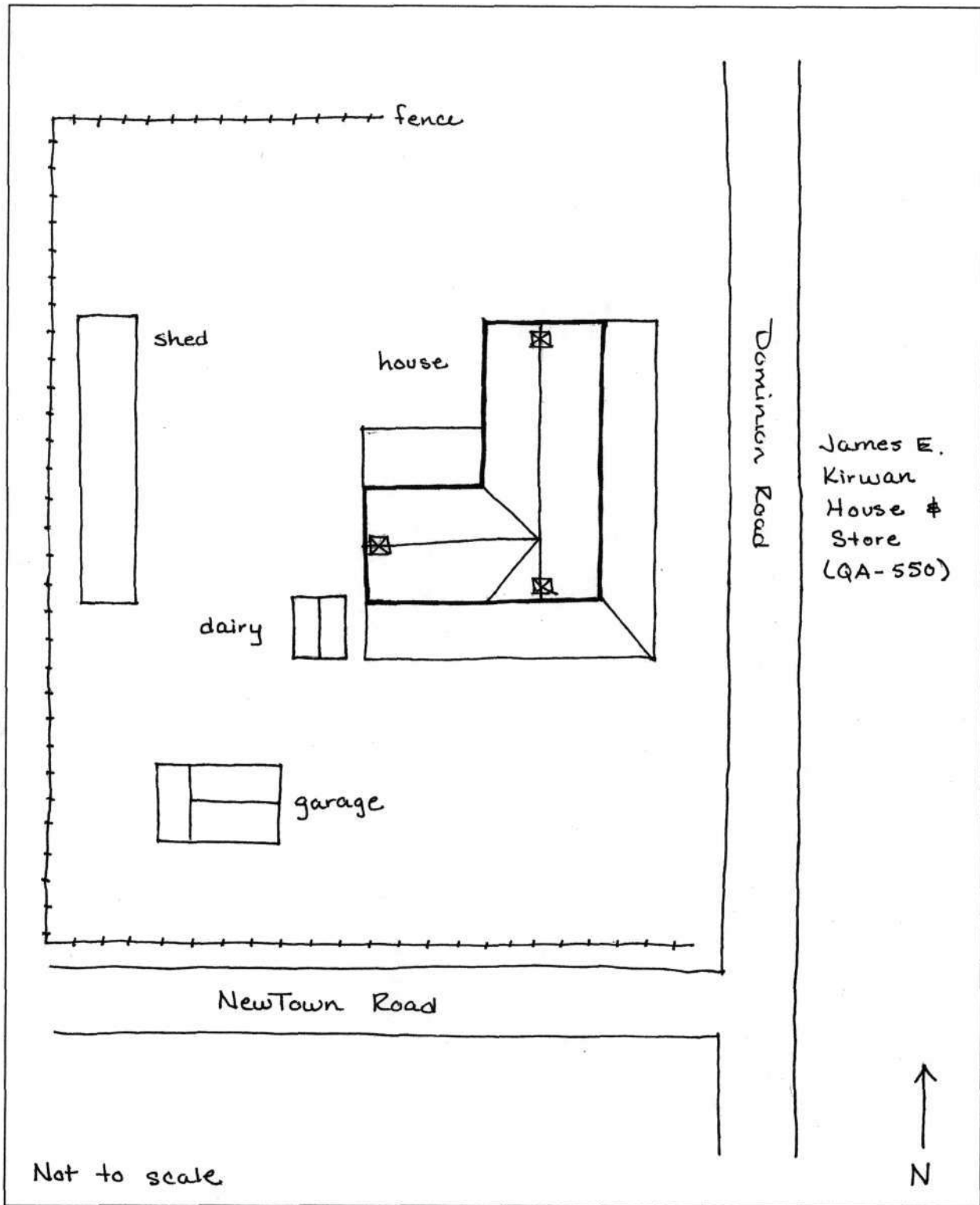
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates LLC	date	May 2005
street & number	2607 24 th St. NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, D.C.	state	N/A

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

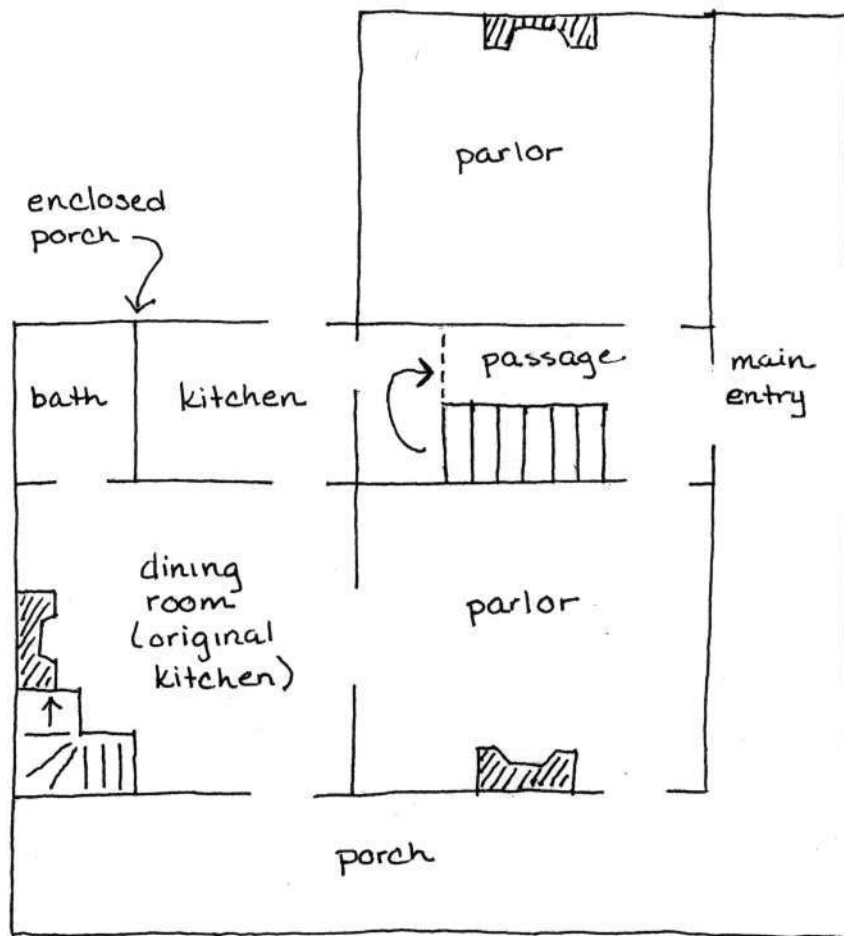
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Site Plan
QA-551
Franklin W. Coleman House
Chester Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland

First Floor - not to scale



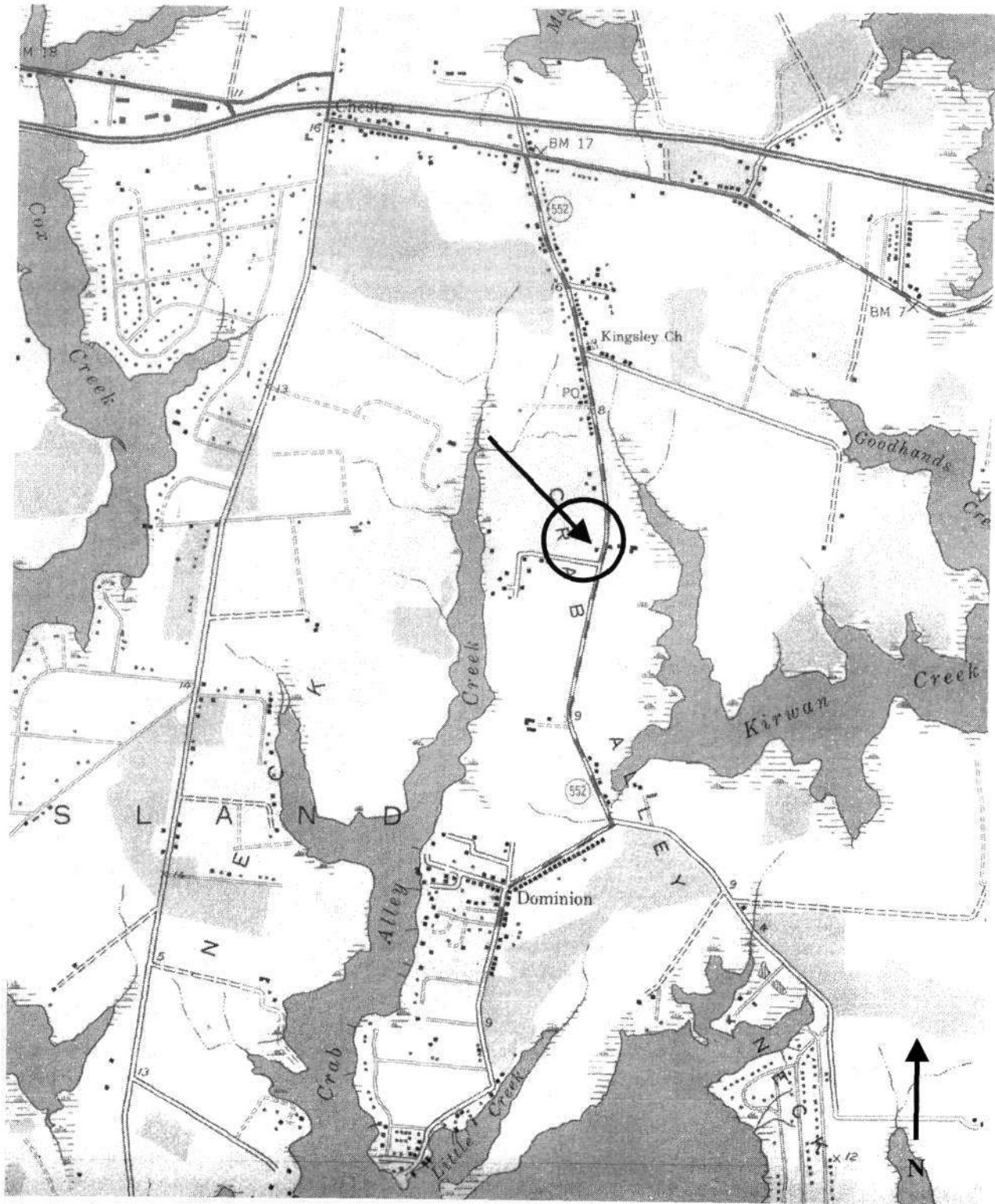
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Floor Plan

QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Chester Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



QA-551
Franklin W. Coleman House
Chester Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Kent Island, MD Quadrangle (1:24,000)



QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julié Darsic for Betty Bird & Associates

August 2005

MD SHPO

View from east showing house, shed in center background,
and garage in left background.
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QA-SSI

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

August 2005

MD SHPO

View from south showing south elevation of house.
dairy in center, garage on left, shed on far left.

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QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

South elevation of garage, south and east elevations
of shed,

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QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

August 2005

MD SHPO

South and west elevations of house and dairy,
Garage on right

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QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

August 2005

MD SHPO

West elevation of house. Dairy on far right. James
E. Kirwan House and Store (QA-550) in left
background.

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QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

August 2005

MD SHPO

North elevation from field.

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QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

First floor interior, center passage, view to SE showing
main entry, door to south parlor, main stair. Light
fixture is not original.

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QA-551

Franklin W. Coleman House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Belly Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

First floor interior, south parlor, view to SW. Doorway to dining room (original kitchen) is on far right. Bertha Coleman Abbott is sitting on winder stair in corner.

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